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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2226

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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/ENRC: Lloyd Gamble

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SENV KSCA CITES AORC UNEP TU

SUBJECT: CITES COP15 OUTREACH: TURKEY SUPPORTS All US-PROPOSED SPECIES LISTINGS/DE-LISTINGS

REFERENCE: A. STATE 6668; B. ANKARA 200

¶1. (SBU) On January 27, we delivered reftel A points to the MFA, which shared the information with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) (reftel B). Having sought and received comments from all relevant GOT agencies on the U.S. proposals for CITES COP15, MEF informed us on February 23 that Turkey will support listing of the family Coralliidae in Appendix II and removal of bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) from Appendix II. Turkey will also support the U.S. proposals for listing of six shark species in Appendix II and for transferring the polar bear from Appendix II to Appendix I.

¶2. (SBU) Although we did not request comments on bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*), MEF informed us Turkey believes it is too early to list the species in Appendix I. They support allowing more time for recent International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) initiatives to have an effect and improving ICCAT regulations in line with relevant scientific advice and transparent and fair implementation of management measures.

¶3. (SBU) The GOT delegation to COP15 will include the following:

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